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## NISHAN & AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

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### P R E S S   R E L E A S E

Date: 8 December 2008

#### **Thousands worldwide get 'Fired Up' for Human Rights**

On December 10 a number of events around the globe will take place to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International will stage a series of **Fire Up** events around the world, mobilising its 2.2 million members to recognize the historic moment when world leaders committed themselves to supporting and promoting human rights.

**Nishan** in collaboration with **Amnesty International India** is organizing a Fire Up event in the state of Haryana as part of this international effort which will give us the opportunity to bring Haryana on the global map on the endeavour in the struggle for human rights.

On that day we are planning to get all our volunteers together and assemble to take the pledge to stop being mute spectators to injustice and human rights violations. From Bangladesh to Burkina Faso, Australia to Austria and Paraguay to the Philippines, thousands of people will light a candle, fire or flame as part of a mass demonstration in support of human rights.

There are confirmed **Fire Up** events happening in 27 countries with over 100 cities and towns taking part. Candles will also be lit virtually by people taking part in **Fire Up** online on their websites and blogs.

In the state of Haryana the **Fire Up** event will take place at Bairsal Village in Karnal District.

Amnesty International supporters will also **Sign Up** by adopting the Passport for Human Rights. People signing up for the passport demonstrate their commitment to stand up for universal, indivisible human rights, believing that everyone has rights, regardless of their race, colour, creed, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or age.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR has also been marked by the **Small Places Tour**. Urged by Peter Gabriel and U2's The Edge, musicians have been raising their voices in song and action in hundreds of concerts held around the world. The tour started on 10<sup>th</sup> September and is due to end on 10<sup>th</sup> December, the date of the anniversary.

**Place, Date and time** of event in Haryana: Government Primary School, Bairsal Village (Karnal District) on 10 December 2008 at 5:00 pm. The venue is approximately 10 kms. from Kurukshetra.

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact: Mr. Aridaman Jit Singh  
(Director of Nishan) Tel.Fax in Kurukshetra: (+91) 1744 232570, mobile: 946-628-3343 or  
email: nishan@nishanjustice.org**

**High resolution photos of the Fire Up events created across the world will be available on:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/33063417@N06/sets/72157610716537014/>**

## Note to editors

NISHAN is a non-profit public policy and advocacy organization dedicated to eradicating corruption and the abuse of power from Indian society. We are primarily focused on cases arising from police apathy and rampant corruption in the Indian bureaucracy and government authorities. Nishan's work is spread across the North of India namely in the states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Currently our campaign headquarter is located in Kurukshetra with a liaison office in Delhi.

The UDHR was adopted by UN member states on 10 December 1948. These events are part of a series of activities that Amnesty International has organized in the run-up to the 60th anniversary to celebrate the UDHR and focus on what must be done to make human rights a reality for everyone.

There are confirmed **Fire Up** events happening in 27 countries with over 100 cities and towns taking part: These countries are: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Taiwan and the UK.

55 countries have taken part in the **Small Places Tour**: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Taiwan, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, UK, USA, Venezuela.

Please confirm your assistance to cover this event at your earliest convenience and no later than December 9 so we can arrange your transportation to the village if necessary. Transportation will be available departing from Kurukshetra.

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